

The GOHSEP FOCUS

Governor's Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness

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Directors Message



Louisiana is vulnerable to many types of disasters. In recent years natural disasters are becoming more frequent and expensive.

Preparedness is a shared responsibility - everyone has a role to play to protect yourself, your family and your community.

Part of being prepared is knowing exactly what kind of disaster(s) you might face and what to do in each situation. The time to figure things out isn't while a disaster is bearing down on you. I encourage each of you to visit our [Get A Game Plan](#) webpage to make sure you are prepared when a disaster strikes.



The Red River Flood Event

With weeks of heavy rainfall across Louisiana and the runoff flooding from Texas and Oklahoma, many areas in Northwest Louisiana have been impacted by the Red River flooding. The National Weather Service (NWS) reported that the Red River is at its highest levels in 70 years, causing areas of the Northwest Louisiana to see major and minor flood stage levels.

As the water continued to rise multiple school districts in Northwest Louisiana were dismissed early and local parish officials setup sandbag locations to serve the public. Sandbagging operations were supported by GOHSEP, the Louisiana National Guard (LANG), the Louisiana Department of Corrections (DOC) and local Louisiana Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD) members.



On May 29, 2015, Governor Jindal declared a State of Emergency due to the predicted flood stage levels reaching a near-historic crest. Flooding from the swelling Red River has put hundreds of homes and farmland underwater or in danger in Northwest Louisiana. Multiple federal, state and local highways/roads had to be closed, livestock and equipment had to be rescued and/or evacuated, and some recreational and boating areas were closed in due to flooding. In addition, the rising waters caused closures to barge traffic in some areas south of the Alexandria Regional Port disrupting shipping.



Governor Jindal performed an aerial survey of the flooded areas and also met with local parish officials in Caddo and Bossier parishes to discuss flood fighting and recovery efforts.

Local Parish Officials began taking precautionary efforts to prevent the rising waters from flooding nearby towns. Recommended evacuations were put into place for certain areas of Caddo and Bossier Parish. With residents being forced from their homes local sheltering operations were setup in multiple locations, with the State having other shelter locations on standby if needed.

Unified Command Group (UCG) meetings were held by the Governor to ensure that state response efforts were in place and local parishes were being assisted in their flood fighting efforts. Daily conference calls were conducted with federal, state and local officials to discuss response efforts, current/future forecasts and impacts/damages.

Commissioner of Agriculture Mike Strain held a meeting with dozens of farmers, ranchers and other stakeholders from the agriculture industry to discuss the situation and answer questions. *(continued on page 2.....)*



Wed., June 24th - Waterford III Drill

SEMG Kickoff Meetings

Region 6 - Tue., June 23rd, Alexandria

Region 8 - Wed., June 24th, West Monroe

Region 7 - Thu., June 25th, Bossier City

FirstNet Outreach Meetings

Region 4 - Wed., June 24th, Lafayette

According to the National Weather Service (NWS) the Red River crested in Shreveport on Tuesday, June 9th at 37.14 ft.; in Coushatta on Thursday, June 11th at 38.83 ft.; in Grand Ecore on Saturday, June 13th at 42.03 ft., and in Alexandria on Tuesday, June 16th at 36.1 ft. Although river stages are forecasted to drop extremely heavy rains in the Red River basin could produce levels to rise as high as the recent flooding experienced. And with the added threat from Tropical Storm Bill producing rain throughout the region this may be a real possibility.



Although the flooding has receded in some areas, State resources will remain available as long as they are needed to assist local parishes in their flood fighting efforts. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will continue to assist state and local officials monitor river conditions to access potential impacts throughout Northwest Louisiana.



GOHSEP Recovery Teams have started assessing damage in areas where water has receded, and will continue performing damage assessments until the flood event has passed. The

information collected in the assessments is needed in support of possible federal assistance. The data will be used to coordinate with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and develop a request for a Major Federal Disaster Declaration.

Joint State & Federal assessment teams will join the Small Business Association (SBA) to determine if assistance may be eligible under the SBA's Disaster Assistance Loan program.





University of New Orleans (UNO), Center for Hazards Assessment, Response & Technology (CHART) is a social science hazards research center that collaborates with Louisiana communities including the City of New Orleans and its surrounding parishes. The vision of UNO-CHART is to support applied research focusing on sustainability and resilience efforts and strategies in light of natural, technological, and environmental risk in the region.

UNO-CHART has received funding through GOHSEP's Community Education & Outreach program to implement mitigation outreach and education projects intended to inform citizens, business owners, non-profit organizations, and local officials about the risks to which they are vulnerable and ways in which those risks can be reduced.

The Risk Literacy curriculum developed with this grant was submitted on a national contest. Solution Search conducted the contest, Reducing Our Risk: Innovations for Disaster Preparation, to identify promising weather solutions to weather-related disasters.

A total of \$66,000 was awarded to five organizations, based on responses from a team of judges and 26,000 public votes. UNO-CHART won \$2,500 for the Peoples Choice Runner-up.



16 New-Disaster Recovery Specialist (DRSs) joined our Team in the Public Assistance Section

Tracey Brooks
 Germaine Cayer
 Philip Celestin
 Vickie Dennis
 Jonathan Dotch
 Khilah Greening
 Courtney Griffin
 Chad Hargon
 Brittany Humphries
 Dwayne Manogin
 Kristen Mauldin
 Nicholas Nquyen
 Bernard Riley
 Arleatha Scarborough
 Tonette Trahan
 Willie Washington



Ray Abrams Elementary School Groundbreaking Ceremony

On Monday, June 15, 2015 the Recovery School District (RSD) held a groundbreaking ceremony for a new state-of-the-art elementary school in Orleans Parish. The new school will be located in the Pines Village area at the site of the old Ray Abrams Elementary School, which was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina and demolished in 2008. Once constructed, the school will be available to serve approximately 1,200 students in grades pre-k through 8th.

The new 2-story building will be home to 40 classrooms, 2 special education classrooms, five labs, a library, a dining facility and a gymnasium that will double as an auditorium. The proposed school will be located next to Digby Playground, which will serve as a complementary use for the school.



RECOVERY
 School District
 Excellence Equity Community



GOHSEP Host Emergency Operations Center Tour

Visitors hosted by the Louisiana State University (LSU) Stephenson Disaster Management Institute (SDMI) from the University Network of Latin American and Caribbean Risk Reduction and Disaster Emergency (REDULAC/RRD) sponsored by U.S. Agency for International Development's, Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) to showcase Louisiana's disaster and emergency management capabilities.



The visitors toured the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC), mobile command post and receive a briefing from our SEOC staff.

SDMI is introducing the Caribbean delegation of professors, disaster management professionals and USAID/OFDA staff members to federal, state and local, including university level, programs in place in Louisiana to help better prevent, prepare for, and respond to disasters.



Emergency Management Grants Awarded



GOHSEP recently awarded nearly \$2 million in U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) funding to all 64 Louisiana Parishes. The EMPG provides federal grant funds to states to assist state, and local agencies to help prepare for all hazards as authorized by Title VI of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act).

The priority of the EMPG is to support the implementation of the National Preparedness System. The National Preparedness System is the instrument the Nation employs to build, sustain and implement core capabilities to achieve the goal of a secure and resilient Nation. Achieving the goal involves a collaborative and whole community approach to national preparedness that engages individuals, families, communities, private and nonprofit sectors, faith-based organizations and all levels of government.

DHS expects EMPG recipients to prioritize grant funding to address capability targets and gaps identified through the annual Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) and State Preparedness Report (SPR) process.

New Disaster Declarations Data Visualization

FEMA has launched a new data visualization tool that enables the public to see when and where disaster declarations have occurred across the country.

The Public Data Visualization Tool, accessible at www.fema.gov/data-visualization, allows users to view and interact with FEMA data through an interactive platform, users can view the history of disaster declarations by hazard type or year and financial support provided to states, tribes, and territories, and access public datasets for further research and analysis. This builds off of the BETA launch in January where users were able to see a visual representation of federal grant data as it relates to fire, preparedness, mitigation, individual assistance and public assistance.

The OpenFEMA data used in the visualization are from the publicly available datasets on www.fema.gov and www.data.gov. FEMA is committed to updating these existing datasets in a timely manner and as feasible, to provide new datasets for external partners to manipulate and use. FEMA will continue to develop additional visualizations based on feedback and the availability of public data.



Somewhere Over The Bayou

Meet 17 year old Ty Zaunbrecher from Gueydan, Louisiana. Ty is an active 4-H member in the Vermilion Parish and State 4-H programs. As a member of the ARCH Homeschool Club he holds the office of president and is an active in the Vermilion 4-H Junior Leaders Club. On a state level, he serves on the Louisiana 4-H Science, Engineering and Technology (SET) Board and the State 4-H Adaptation Team Task Force.



Ty's interests and talents are many; musically he enjoys playing the guitar, drums and bass. His creativity is also found in his love for woodworking and for video production.

Ty was involved in the pilot youth hazard mitigation project funded by GOHSEP, Statewide Hazard Mitigation Community Outreach Project, and FEMA. By involved, I mean he helped to script, acted in and was sole editor on a mitigation video story called "[Somewhere Over the Bayou](#)" which has recently entered into a national 4-H film festival.

Ty was one of three youth representing Louisiana at the 2014 National Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN) annual meeting held in Florence, Alabama last fall. Delivery of the materials had the audience engaged and wanting to hear more. At this same meeting Ty and his brother also provided a voice for Louisiana 4-H and for youth interested in getting involved in hazard mitigation. Interaction between conference participants has resulted in an increased conversation on how to involve youth at a higher level in other states at future events.

His latest accomplishment has been to apply for and be accepted to join the FEMA Youth Preparedness Council as representative from Region VI.

We congratulate Ty on his many accomplishments and look forward to his continued involvement in hazard preparedness and mitigation education!!!!!!



Customer Service Overview: Creating a Solid Foundation is the first in this series, and is designed to give a clearer understanding of what customer service is, why customer service is important, who customer service affects, and the customer's most basic needs. This course is not only designed to benefit employees who directly work with customers but also to assist in providing learners with best practices for working with other employees in their and other agencies.

Also, new with this course is a "Course Appraisal" link, accessible at the end of the course. Once the user clicks on the link to the survey, a new browser window will open, allowing the user to enter any feedback on the course. We invite you to explore the course, and welcome any feedback you may have on this or any of CPTP's courses or course topics.

getting it right!



Please visit [GOHSEP's Getting it Right](#) webpage to get information on all upcoming workshop and class scheduled.

June 24th - Darielle Hills & April Mathes

June 27th - Ashlei Johnson

June 30th - Evon Cook

July 2nd - Tonia Bergeron & Shontae Davis

July 3rd - Roy Collins & Honey Morris

July 4th - Sandra LaBorde

July 5th - Keith Howard



Request For Articles

If you would like to include your information/article in future issues of *The GOHSEP Focus*, please contact:

Allison Hadley or Mike Steele
(225) 718-1815 (225) 925-3966
allison.hadley@la.gov mike.steele@la.gov

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